

mes ames



Lake Okanagan Resort

SEPT. 7 - SEPT. 9, 1984

WELCOME TO OUR REUNION
THE 45th YEAR OF THE CLASS OF '39

We hope your stay at the Lake Okanagan Resort will be a memorable one. Scheduled events have been kept to a minimum so that you will have time to swim, play tennis or golf, see the sights or just lounge at pool side. The following are the only planned events:

Friday, Sept. 7th - 6/8 p.m. - Reception in Munsie's chalet.
Dinner on your own.

Saturday, Sept. 8th - Cascade Room, Terrace Level
6:30/7:30 p.m. - No host bar (You pay for your drinks)
7:30 p.m. BANQUET !!

Sunday, Sept. 9th - 10 a.m./2 p.m. - Resort brunch on your own. The resort is famous for their Sunday brunch, so suggest you go in early to avoid the crowd.

GOLF: Contact Gwen or Lloyd to arrange tee-off times at the public course in Kelowna. Par 3 course at resort available.

For those extending their stay, Gwen & Lloyd have offered to take you to their cottage situated across the lake from the resort. This will be by boat, weather permitting. Contact Gwen or Lloyd for details.

For sightseeing and perhaps a tour of a winery on Saturday, contact Dorothy L. or Sylvia.

Other than the Banquet, all food, drinks, etc. should be charged to your room, or pay as you go. The reunion officially is over on Sunday, but for those who are staying on, ENJOY!!!

SCAVENGER HUNT: Enclosed is a list of cryptic clues which will lead you to the proper answer. The other trick, however, is to find the actual item that each answer indicates. All items on your list are readily available within the locale of the resort. You will find it fun as well as challenging. So put on your thinking caps and pitch in. Return the list with all your collectibles in the bags provided to Dick Lupton by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. As there are 'valuable and fantastic' prizes for the winners, DO NOT consult with others as you may be misled. In addition, DO NOT give other teams your answers, for if correct, you could lose out by providing them with a higher score. All entries, less disposable items, will be returned to you after the presentation of prizes.

- - HAVE A HAPPY REUNION - -

Phoebe, Dorothy M., Gwen, Sylvia and Dorothy L.

1939

1984 130.1

M.E.S. AMIES - 1939-1984

Dear friends of the class of '39:

What fun it was to put this newsletter together following the 45th reunion! Twenty-five replies were received as a result of my memo- which is terrific- thanks so much. From these, I've gathered news to share with everyone - so here goes. First - here is an impression from one of the husbands - Ned Toole - expressed in his own inimitable style.

According to plans and schedules established by the group of Western residents composed of Gwen Murray, Dorothy Munsie, Phoebe Hamilton, Sylvia Teal and Dorothy Lupton, 18 pilgrims imbued with the spirit of youth and vigour, gathered in the afternoon at the Lake Okanagan Resort, on the Western shore of Okanagan Lake on Friday 7th September '84. After scaling mountains of steps or precipitous paths to deposit luggage in various lodgings spread over a large hillside, the group gathered in the chalet of Dorothy and Jack Munsie and Adrienne and Ed Lea to renew acquaintances, quaff the generous potions of Ed and Jack's bar and generally socialize with gay abandon. After a couple of hours of such revelry the need for sustenance of more solid nature attracted the group to the charming dimly-lit coffee shop in the lodge to dine leisurely on hamburgers, steak sandwiches and huckleberry pie. The leisurely dining was a natural result of the leisurely service provided but the food was welcome when it did arrive.

All were impressed with the eerie-like view of the location, a thousand feet up from the lake, when the sun dawned the following day. The hills of the Okanagan are always a joyous and inspiring sight to the traveller returning and to the newcomer to the valley. The eeriness of this location was heightened by the "skirl of the pipes" later in the morning as our favorite piper (Roslyn Duffus) roamed the golf course moors. While some graduates chatted, others lobbed tennis balls on professional quality courts, and still others closeted themselves behind closed doors and practiced the dancing hall skills of the Follies Bergere and the can can in preparation for later revelries.

By evening, the group assembled in elegant party finery to savour the local vinters potions and the distillates of other brews. Effective organization mixed friends around attractive tables, put BBQ'd pink salmon and other delectables on plates and satisfied sharpened appetites. Enthusiasm, vigour and the joy of camaraderie added to the radiance and beauty of the members of the class of '39 who earned the admiration of their spouses. Fitting remarks, eloquent toasts and sincere responses all added to an euphoria that owed more to inner feelings than to imbibed spirits.

Then the "piece de resistance" - the Review. With costumes, dialogue, precision timing and execution derived from a lifetime of diligent adherence to the disciplines, training and philosophies of the Margaret Eaton School; dancers, fencers, swimmers, and gymnasts demonstrated Olympian skills to the compelling rhythms and nostalgic tunes executed by the class musician (Winn MacLennan Johnston) while delighted spectators applauded and laughed themselves silly. Snapshots were snapped, reminiscences were reminisced and people enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Sunday morning brought fog and rain to reflect the emotions of sadness at departure. More pictures were taken, hugs, kisses and farewells were exchanged. Anticipation was already focused on the fiftieth. The 45th had to have been a "hot" party though. The dining hall burned the following week! We look forward to the 50th in a cosy, more private atmosphere "more on the level!"

How could I improve on that report? Only to perhaps add a few remarks to clarify - yes 18 came plus 10 husbands and 2 daughters (ours). It was said that these reunions are the only affairs some husbands would go to - so that must mean something. Who came? Adrienne and Ed, Gwen and Lloyd, Dorothy and Dick, Joan, Hillary, Sylvia and Aubrey, Ruth Corner, Dorothy and Jack, Marj Armitage, Phoebe, Shiga, Carol and Allan plus two daughters Sylvia and Roslyn, Jess and John, Anne and Ned, Kay and James, Winn J. Shirley M, Patty and Frank, Julia and Jim.

Without a doubt - The Western Committee is to be congratulated. The organization was terrific - the resort well chosen and delightful despite the hairy drive along cliff side to get there and the distances to and fro - up and down and up and down and up and down! Great exercise! Beautiful baskets of B.C. fruit, packed by Gwen and daughter (am I right?) adorned each suite - a lovely welcome, and a bag of goodies and info also with program for weekend included and much appreciated.

Ned has spoken of the reception Friday evening hosted by the committee. It was such fun to see everyone again - especially Sylvia - her first reunion after 45 years. As Ned said we are a very fine looking group - The years have been good to us. See for yourselves - This snap shows everyone who came except Adrienne and Julia. They left early I believe.

A scavenger hunt with a difference was planned for Saturday. The clues were tricky like "wooden artichoke facsimile", it's hairy but these teeth don't chew" and "This is the end - equie apples", and other such gems. Prizes awarded at the banquet went to Roslyn and Sylvia Duffus - so where does that leave us?!

You've already read of the banquet Saturday night and afterwards the program. Gwen was M.C. and she was excellent in her role. There were "fitting remarks", many spoke of their experiences as boarders with impressions of Mrs. Mariott. Nostalgia was evident and who could not be moved by Shiga's emotional plea for peace and a nuclear free world? Later you will read parts of Shiga's letter sent recently. Thank you Shiga for the lovely gifts you brought for everyone.

Then "The Review" what fun - with Ned replete with rag mop wig introducing the acts. First Phoebe in the role of fencer using a fence picket - showing how we've carried our expertise learned at M.E.S. into later life (Phoebe is an avid gardener) - swimmers - Jess and Patty complete with nose clips and swim suits doing an amazing synchronized number across the stage - gymnast - Anne in tunic, bloomers and black hose doing exercises had a problem with her underclothes slipping down, unbeknownst to her but hilarious to see - and finally our modern dancer Shirley - with the familiar long blue dress - leaping and swirling about madly - (As Phoebe said later - she could'nt be 65 could she, perhaps 50?) You really had to be there to believe that the many talents of the class of '39 have in no way diminished. The evening was complete with Winn at the piano, providing the music for the performers, the sing song and conga line. - and finally closing with her beautiful rendition of "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring".

Sunday came all too quickly - we just didn't have the time to talk to each other as we'd hoped and regretfully had to say goodbye with a feeling of unfulfillment. This then is the reason for this letter.

A few of us stayed over Sunday and were treated to a boat ride across the lake to Gwen and Lloyd's cottage, meet her son Geord, a Kelowna lawyer, and have some refreshments and a nice visit. A squall came up later on the lake and we had a hilarious drive back by car squeezed in together. We had to "unfoetal" Ned when we got back, certainly a trip to remember!

Now on to the letters - I wish I could print them all in their entirety but this is impossible - space and cost wise. So please forgive me for leaving out some things here and there. I've so enjoyed hearing from you.

Adrienne Adams-Lea

Adrienne and Ed have 3 sons and 2 daughters - all married and 3 grandchildren - Adrienne has many hobbies: gardening, knitting, crocheting, pressed flower arrangements etc. and Ed likes to hunt, fish, cook and recently has taken up painting. They keep a Condo in Toronto for convenience. Their feelings about the reunion - echoed by many - not enough chance to chat because of being so spread out. For the 50th, they feel we should choose some place smaller, more accessible, central and level. Even so agreed as everyone did, the Okanagan Lake Resort was a beautiful spot with fantastic scenery and the committee did a great job.

Gwen Baalim Murray

Gwen's first husband Geo Holland died in 1974. They had 3 children, 2 daughters and a son and 3 grandchildren. Gwen served as alderman (woman-person!) on Kelowna Municipal Council for 5 years. She married Lloyd in 1976 and moved to Victoria. Both are very active. They say yes to a 50th perhaps on the East Coast or in Winnipeg.

Dorothy Barbour Lupton

Dorothy and Dick have opened a new Travel Agency (Prestige Travel) in Vancouver and doing well. I can vouch for their fine service, it is excellent. They have one son, married and a daughter and one grandchild. After the reunion they took a delightful and unexpected trip to Australia. It was the trip of a lifetime and a dream come true! They are also in favour of a 50th and offer to help in the planning. They feel it should be held some place special.

Joan Brown Hillary

Joan was widowed 18 years ago. The "joys of her life" her 5 children and 7 1/2 grandchildren are scattered about the Country and Joan plans to spend her first OAS cheque on a flight to visit Beth and look after Jim (age 2) while Beth produces (#2). She "keeps her end up" by serving as a volunteer with Ontario Audiobrary service, committee for performing arts and Meals on Wheels. She reported on Marj's daughters wedding in Ottawa "Marj looked gorgeous and under her pearl grey floor length chiffon gown she wore "log rollers" dyed to match - even the laces, which she exhibited with glee!" Joan is in favour of a 50th and has many good suggestions.

Dorothy Cameron

Dorothy had to cancel out on the reunion because of emergency surgery. She is fine now and has just organized and held a mini reunion in Toronto (Nov 14) There was a terrific turn out of 12. Adrienne, Joan, Ruth, Dorothy (Laidlaw), a first for her, Jess, Kae, Fran, Shirley, Patty, Jean and Julia and herself. According to all reports they had a great noisy luncheon and it was said that grads today do not have the enriching close knit relationships which we have in our M.E.S. group - so on to the 50th! Dorothy does volunteer work with the Canadian Cleft Lip and Palate Family Association. She also drives the elderly to appointments for a Caring association. She has many craft interests - swims, lawn bowls, attends retirement courses, finding them most stimulating. Along with all this she finds time to travel extensively and has been to such exotic places as Bathurst Inlet Lodge, N.W.T., Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in Nepal, Nature Tours to Bermuda and Hawaii and Elder Hostelling. Sounds like she is enjoying life to the full -

Sylvia Collier-Wright Teal

This was Sylvia's first reunion and it was great to see her after all that time. She looks terrific - stunning - see for yourselves in photo. It was "guess who was who" for some but renewing of friendships was immediate, as Sylvia said after 45 years she found that quite amazing and very meaningful. She spoke of the picture gallery on view of our years at M.E.S. and didn't recognize herself in the group photos - so there you are. Sylvia and Aubrey have not retired, they just "stopped working for a living". They are just as busy as before, involved in community projects such as Hospital Auxiliary etc. They like to travel in their motor home - They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Sylvia took it upon herself to write to all the absentees and tell them of the reunion, using Shiga's gift paper. Her thoughts on the 50th "We shall, of course, be aiming for 100% attendance so it would seem we should choose a location more central with easy accessibility".

Ruth Corner

Ruth retired this year as Head of Adult Services, York Public Library, Toronto, after 33 years. She realized a long time dream by visiting Australia, N.Z. and Tahiti in the Spring. Like others after the reunion she travelled on to Vancouver, Victoria and Banff by rail and to Killarney, Man. where she visited Dorothy and Ted Sangster. She definitely feels a 50th is in order.

Margaret Davidson Lathrop

Regretfully there doesn't seem to be any contact made with Margaret - why Marg?

Dorothy Forsyth Sangster

Dorothy and Ted have 3 daughters, 2 married and one grandchild. Dorothy teaches social dancing to young adults - couples, but has given up adjudicating folk dancing at festivals in rural Man. Arthritis restricts her activities (welcome to the club!) She and Ted are volunteers in the community - Hospital Auxiliary being a priority. They had a great ocean voyage to Europe this fall on the Q.E.II. We're all envious. Go for the 50th and somewhere central.

Dorothy Frappier Munsie

Dorothy and Jack have become grandparents since the reunion and are thrilled. They have returned from a quick trip to Las Vegas where they saw "Jubilee" and other fabulous shows, and played the machines which were kind to them. They both look great and Frap says the Western group intend to meet soon and hash over the reunion and talk about the 50th. These 5 are so modest about the planning they did for the 45th and the wonderful results that they won't comment too much on it. You were great girls, every letter coming in states this over and over again, so take a bow!

Marjorie Fraser Armitage

Marj hasn't got back to me yet, but these things we know from others. Her daughter's wedding went off very well (see Joan's remarks). Winn and Russ. were there too. We also know Marj works for a legal firm and enjoys golf among other things. She almost didn't come to the reunion, we're glad she changed her mind.

Phoebe Hamilton

Phoebe's was the first note to come - she needed no reminders. She says - seeing Winn and Marj standing talking in a doorway just transported her back 45 years ago - "carrying luggage up the narrow stairways at St. George St. residence - and the formal after dinner coffee hours to say nothing of how hard it was coming in late in the winter via the drain pipe". Of the reunion - she felt if she was in a jam and had no family nearby - there were many there on whom she could call - It gave her a "wonderfully secure feeling". Phoebe picked up Shiga in Seattle and deposited her there after the reunion to catch her flight to San Francisco and thence back to Japan. Thank you, Phoebe, from all of us. She also spoke of the wonderful time the 5 hostesses had while planning the 45th and how satisfying to see its culmination to a full and successful conclusion. Phoebe speaks of her work at the University and other winter activities and certainly looks forward to the 50th.

Shiga Hasegawa Ishimura

Shiga - looking younger than ever - what a pleasure to have you with us again! Thank you for coming and thank you for your gifts - what a lovely Japanese custom! Your letter came in time and I want to share it with the others so here it is almost in its entirety.

"Okanagan is a very beautiful place. It's a bit different from Eastern part of your country, isn't it? Tananakoon is, I think, a beautiful spot of traditional Canadian lakes and woods, and so is the place we went for our 40th reunion. Okanagan has a touch of modernization with traditional Canadian scenery.

Dear Carol, you asked us (me) how I liked the reunion. Yes, I enjoyed it so much. The only thing I thought later was that I should have talked with each of you more - I guess I was over excited to sit with you quietly and listen to your talk. Phoebe was doing it, I know. I missed that, and it was my fault. Too bad. That is why I do appreciate dinner conversation at the banquet. Patty, Shirley, Gwen and probably Julia's husband were there. We talked about technological progress in Japan and then Patty mentioned about Pearl Harbour attack by Japanese Navy. It was good for me to know how you feel about Japan's conducts during the war.

When I was at M.E.S. I was still too young and couldn't understand anything. I've learned more since then - not just about what was happening during the war days but in the post war period and even now.

We hear much about Japanese people who were living in China (occupied by Japan in early 1930's), repatriated after Japan's defeat in starvation, poverty, rape, etc. Many babies were left in China and have been brought up by Chinese people who were not at all rich. It took almost 40 years for some of those babies and children to come back to

Japan (no diplomatic relations were established for years): most of them couldn't speak a word of Japanese, and still have difficulties in finding jobs and earning their living.

Another difficulty they have is their foster parents who are left in China: most of them are aged and left in solitude. We could hardly hear their stories without tears. Nowadays, there are many teachins, forums, rallies through which we learn about the truth of our aggressive war, and people (of our age particularly) are trying to have young people see the reality and never repeat the same sin, not only in Japan but also in our neighbouring countries. There are problems of Japanese multinationals who have advanced in the developing countries in Asia (Malaysia, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, etc.) for cheap labour. Again! Same thing is going to happen!

It's so difficult to convey our thought based on experience to younger generation - even those in their 40's, 30's, and 20's. But we have to do something, and do it in every possible way.

Rapid technological changes are all right, but they are bringing about difficulties, too. Of course, I don't oppose them, but technological changes must be accompanied with happiness of men all over the world, don't they? - even including African people who are dying or on the brink of starvation to death.

I've written too long - Please cut it short. I've been wondering how every one of you has been doing all these years, so I'm looking forward to the publication you're planning.

I've been extremely busy since I came home. There were a few international conferences and been helping them in a way of translating materials, reports, speeches, etc. from English to Japanese and vice versa.

I'm so happy to know Miss Layton is well. I hope I can live up to her!!

Carol Hendry Duffus

Allan and I have four children - one married - no grandchildren yet - Our daughters, Sylvia and Roslyn enjoyed being included at the reunion very much - Roslyn was with us at Harrison Hot Springs and thought we were a lively bunch then and hasn't changed her mind. Sylvia felt right at home and commented that all of you were so much like me - with interests and activities and keeping busy and yes - a little nuts! I take it as a compliment - I hope you do too. Allan is semi-retired too but still puts in many hours a day. We both keep busy with church work, Red Cross, Heritage groups etc. Allan sketches and paints a bit and I weave, knit, crochet etc. etc. We'll all go for the 50th and would love to have it in the Maritimes, too - but maybe central Canada would be more convenient for others.

Joyce Jarvis Mathews

Joyce and Dick travelled to China, Hong Kong and spent time at their Condo in Hawaii this fall. They do a lot of travelling and I mean a lot. In '80 it was a 4 month jaunt around the world and in '82 - a fly/drive tour of N.Z. Fiji and Tahiti. It was a return to the past trip for Dick who was based in Fiji in '40-'41, escorting air training personnel from Australia and N.Z. to Canada. Dick takes more time off from the pressures of his law practice and they spend time in Hawaii, fall and spring, where Joyce feels more comfortable. Arthritis has hit another of our number. Joyce and Dick have 3 children, 2 married and one grandchild. Their youngest son Michael is an artist and now making a name for himself - watch for his work.

Dorothy Laidlaw Corlett

Dorothy and Murray are very happy with their move in Ottawa. Their two daughters live fairly near and they have one grandchild. Dorothy sees Marj, Winn and Ann and says yes to a 50th! She was at the mini in Toronto on November 14 and everyone was delighted to see her after all those years.

Jess Loaring Eastwood

Jess and John are regulars at the reunions too - Jess is a great correspondent and these 2 get around! Jess is still a champion swimmer and she and her team of 6, all over 60, were entering the National Masters synchronized swim meet (annual) in Orlando Florida but I don't have the results yet - sorry - surely they won?! They have two grandchildren who are fantastic, of course! John enjoys these reunions as much as we do if not more and they look forward to the 50th. On their trip to Kelowna, Jess saw the camp on Lake of the Woods where she was counsellor from '39-'42. It was just the same - a bit of nostalgia and she felt a desire to go back for a holiday with old friends made there. Jess has recently become an American Citizen.

Anne Lyster Toole

Ned and Anne continued on to the coast after the reunion to visit friends and see places, and up to Edmonton and Red Deer to see all their kids, 5 or 6? You've read Ned's report, wasn't it marvellous?! Commenting on the dining hall and club room fire a week after we left. "We suspect a faulty electrical system might have been the reason, because there was a blackout while we were dining there Sunday night and alarm bells ringing". We saw Ned and Anne during the spring in N.S. when Anne attended a quilters convention at Mt. St. Vincent University. Anne is hooked on quilting now - you surely noticed her lovely vest!



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